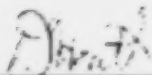


HESQUIAT PENINSULA PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

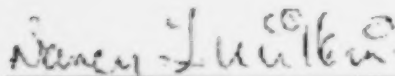
February 2003

Approved by:



Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Feb 2003



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 11, 2003

HESQUIAT PENINSULA PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Hesquiat Peninsula Park is to protect the natural values associated with the temperate rainforest on the west coast of Vancouver Island and the nearshore marine environment. Much of this type of forest has been developed through forestry and is no longer in its natural state. Hesquiat Peninsula Park specifically protects a low elevation peninsula on the west coast of Vancouver Island, as well as representative stands of old growth Sitka spruce, lodgepole pine and yellow cedar, a large lake, bald eagle nesting sites, and salmon-bearing waterways. Numerous rare and endangered species are protected in this park.

Hesquiat Peninsula Park contributes to the protection of the Coastal Western Hemlock vhl biogeoclimatic variant and the Windward Island Mountains Ecoregion, which are both well represented in the protected areas system.

With 1,199 hectares of foreshore, Hesquiat Peninsula Park protects extensive and intricate coastal ecosystems consisting of boulder, cobble and sand beaches, sea caves, kelp beds, eelgrass beds, and mud flats. These habitats support herring spawning grounds, gray whales, resident and migrating birds, other marine mammals, and intertidal/subtidal marine organisms.

The foreshore areas of Hesquiat Peninsula Park and nearby Maquinna Marine Park form a contiguous boundary that protects the subtidal and intertidal zones of Hesquiat Harbour. This marine area contributes to protecting the Vancouver Island Shelf Marine Ecoregion (VIS), which is poorly represented in the protected areas system at 5.4%.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to protect cultural features. Clayoquot Sound has a vibrant First Nations heritage, both past and present. Beaches were popular gathering and village sites and are found in many of the protected areas in Clayoquot Sound. The park is rich in First Nations sites and post-contact sites that capture glimpses of the past. Historically significant events occurred in this park.

Tertiary Role

The **tertiary** role is to provide a recreation experience for hikers who are looking for a remote and wilderness coastal hike. Hesquiat Peninsula Park is the farthest north of the coastal parks in Clayoquot Sound, and unlike Maquinna, Gibson Marine, Flores and Vargas Island Parks, Hesquiat Peninsula receives few visitors. Thus Hesquiat Peninsula is suited for those who are seeking a remote natural setting on the wild west coast abundant with pristine forests. Recreational facilities include a few safe anchorages for boaters, a number of informal camping sites and primitive trails that follow the shoreline; however, there are no developed facilities at Hesquiat Peninsula Park.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Cabin lease that predates the park is not under the jurisdiction of Parks	➤ Pursue LWBC transfer responsibility for the lease to Parks.

Adjacent geoduck farm surrounded by park on all sides	➤ Monitor operations to ensure area of tenure adhered to. Work with LWBC and operators to clearly define tenure area. ➤ Monitor activities and ensure activities are not impacting the surrounding parkland. ➤ Ensure access is maintained by boat only – no road creation.
Cabin trespasses in the park	➤ Develop strategy to remove trespasses. ➤ Restore and rehabilitate site.
Relationships with First Nations and pending treaty settlements	➤ Develop good working relationships with First Nations to develop an understanding and appreciation of protected area status and park values. ➤ Liaise with Central Region Board (CRB) to inform them of management issues in park.
Participation in Biosphere Reserve	➤ Work with Biosphere Foundation and CRB to ensure Environmental Stewardship Division's perspective is taken into account in Biosphere activities and projects.
Lack of knowledge and awareness of cultural and natural values	➤ Undertake cultural inventory and traditional use study of whole park in conjunction with First Nations. ➤ Undertake inventory and mapping of natural values including rare elements and marine mammals. Develop monitoring and sampling protocols. ➤ In conjunction with First Nations, develop interpretative information on park values and appropriate behaviour.
Extraction of marine resources from commercial harvesting	➤ Work with DFO on commercial fishery closures.
Impact of adjacent land use	➤ Work with adjacent land owners, Ministry of Forests and industry to address issues that may affect park values.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation Zone – covers the built environment in Boat Basin, an area of < 10 hectares or < 0.1% of the park. The objective of this zone is to provide a variety of readily accessible, family-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment Zone – covers a small area of the park (approximately 5%) where most of the recreational activity is focussed,. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Wilderness Recreation Zone - covers the majority of the park (approximately 95%). The objective of this zone is to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities depending on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites.

Representation
- ecosection

Conservation

- ☒ Hesquiat Peninsula Park is the fifth largest contributor (3.2%) to the well-represented Windward Island Mountains Ecosection (17.4% protected).

Hesquiat also contributes 1.3% to the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection, which is poorly protected at 5.4%.

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

- ☒ Hesquiat Peninsula Park is the third largest contributor (7.3%) to the well-represented CHWvh1 variant, which has 19.3% protected provincially. Brooks Peninsula and Cape Scott parks are the largest contributors.

Special Feature

- ☒ Old growth Sitka spruce, sandstone shelves, caves, kelp and eelgrass beds

Rare/Endangered Values

- ☒ *Red-listed species:* marbled murrelet, northern sea lion, sea otter. *Blue-listed species:* gray whale, surf scoter. COSEWIC listed Threatened northern abalone.

Scientific/Research Opportunities

- ☒ Rare and endangered species

Recreation

Representation

backcountry
destination
travel corridor

- ☒ Significant coastal shoreline hiking
☒ Surfing, kayaking, wildlife viewing
☒ Kayak route from Tofino to Hot Springs Cove to Hesquiat Harbour
☐ Low level of use

local recreation

Special Opportunities

- ☒ Cougar Annie's Garden adjacent to park

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

- ☒ Hooksum Outdoor School

Cultural Heritage

Representation

- ☒ Post contact history -- historically significant events: first European contact occurred near Estevan Point in 1774 by Spanish Captain Juan Perez on the *Santiago*; first Catholic mission on the west coast of Vancouver Island; only attack on Canada during World War II (by Japanese at the Estevan Point lighthouse).

Special Feature



First Nations: spiritual and burial sites; culturally modified trees. Post-contact: Estevan Lighthouse.

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations



Part of the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve

Relationship to other PAs



Part of a system of protected areas in Clayoquot Sound

Co-operative Management Arrangements



Covered by the Interim Measurements Extension Agreement with the Central Regional Board

Partnerships



Not Applicable

Vulnerability



Adjacent uses such as logging and shellfish farming, as well as marine harvesting within the park may effect species in the park. The part of the park that has a long thin boundary along the shoreline is extremely vulnerable to adjacent and upslope working forests.

Relationship to other Strategies

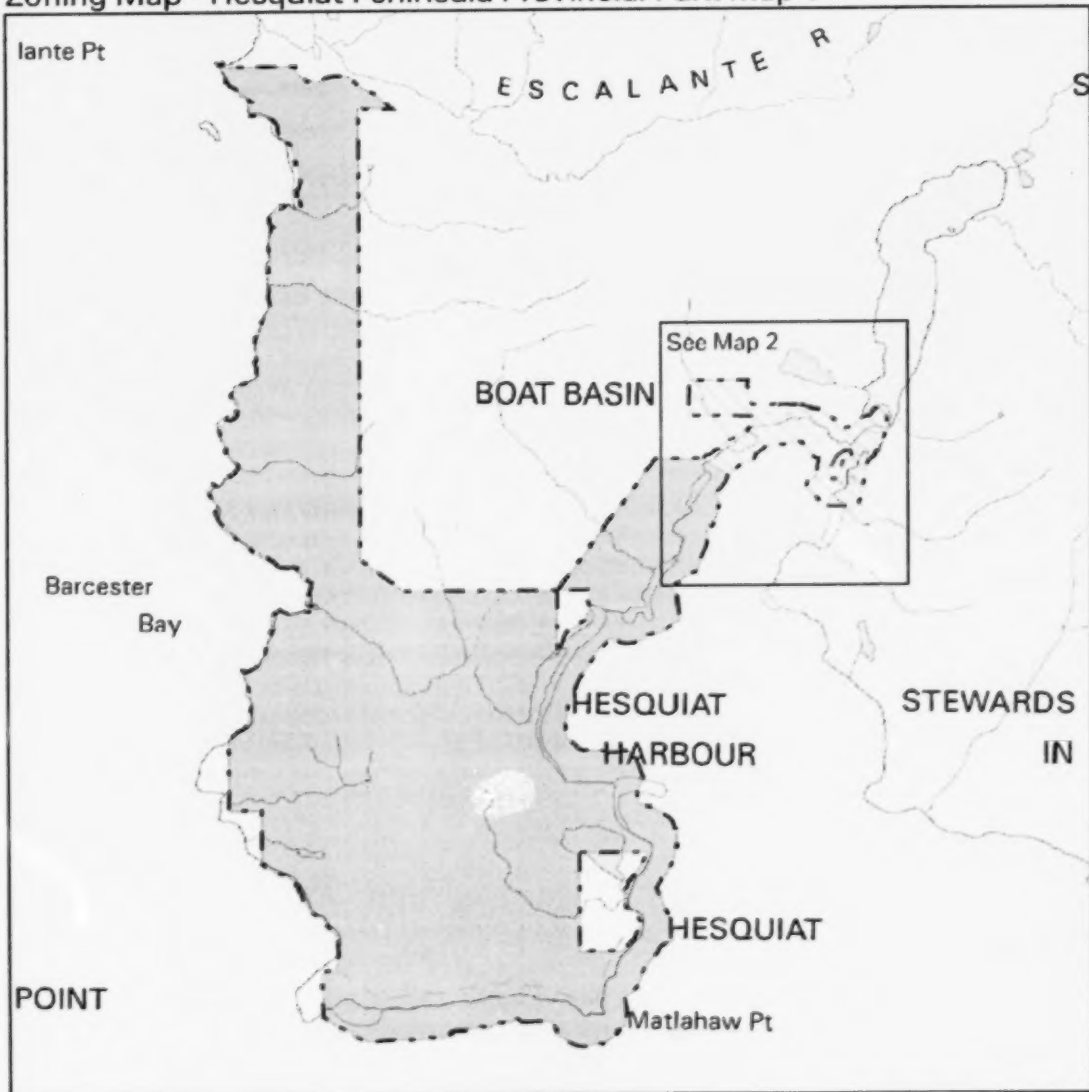


Management for a Hesquiat Living Harbour; Interim Measures Extension Agreement; Marine Protected Areas Strategy. Identified for protection in the 1993 Clayoquot Sound Land Use Decision.

Area: 7,888 hectares (6,689 ha upland; 1,199 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: July 12, 1995

Zoning Map - Hesquiat Peninsula Provincial Park Map 1



Projection: Alberta Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



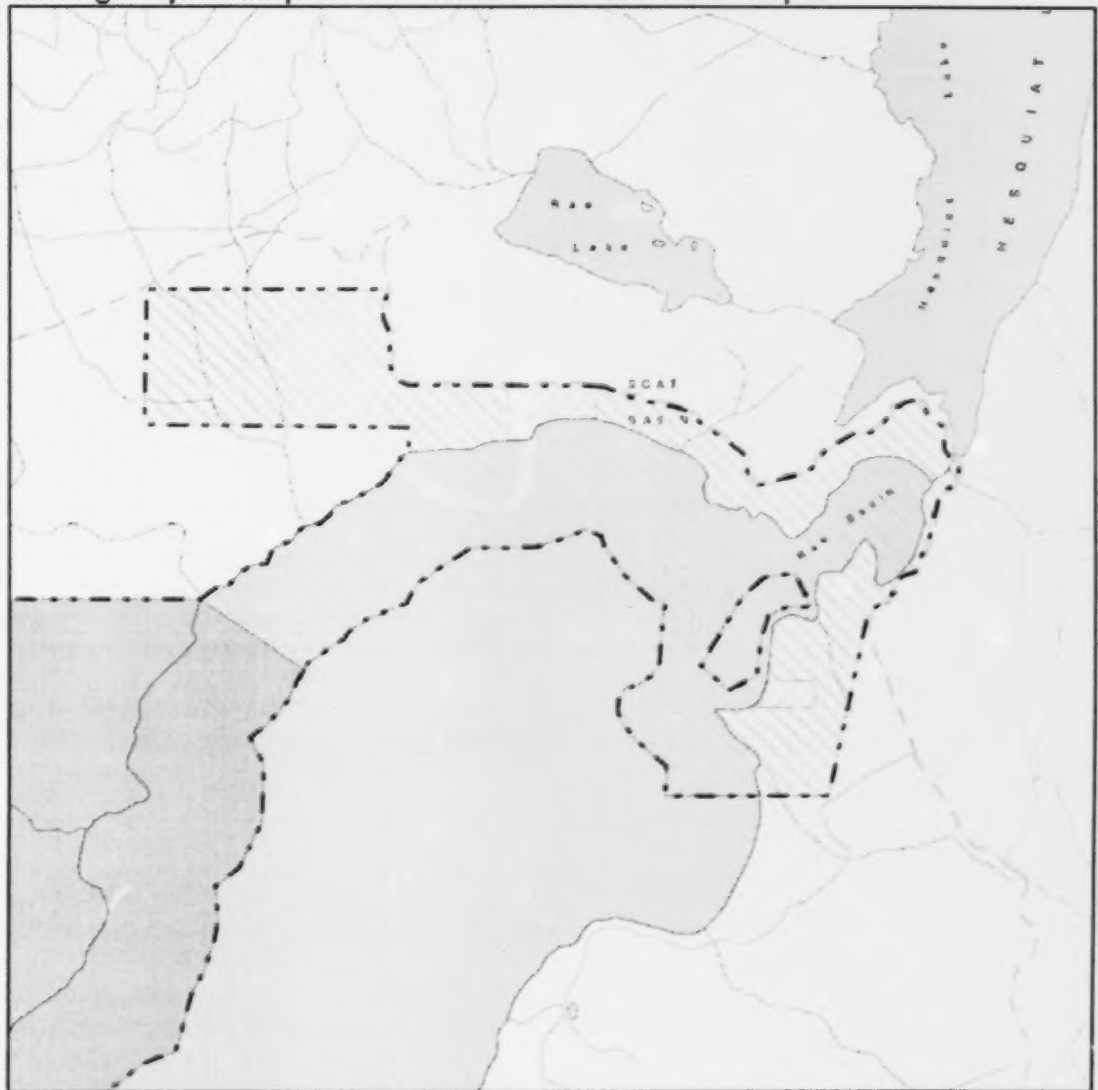
- Intensive Recreation
- Natural Environment
- Wilderness Recreation
- Protected Area Boundary

0 2
km

Produced in Feb 2003 for
Ministry of Water, Land and Air
Protection by MSRM, Decision
Support Services

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Zoning Map - Hesquiat Peninsula Provincial Park Map 2



Projection: Alberta Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Wilderness Recreation
-  Protected Area Boundary

0 1
km

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